



# the Troll's Knit News

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The Troll's Cove  
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Hours: Thurs-Sat 10-5  
Sun 12-4  
Open year round

## Tips and Techniques:

- Always pull the yarn out of the ball for about 3 times the width of the piece you are working on. This will allow you to "see" any knots before it is too late and deal with them without having to *unknit*.
- Freeze your garment overnight before trying to rip out mohair or other fuzzy yarns. This will help tame the tendency of fuzzy yarns to stick together.
- Measure your favorite sweater, the one that fits you just right. Make these measurements the ones you use when you are making a garment and not your body measurements. Your sweater will fit wonderfully every time.
- AS ALWAYS-RELAX! ENJOY!

*Thursday Knit Night:  
Knitting with company*

Every Thursday evening—  
rain or shine, snow, you  
name it—this is our time  
together.

Come when you can.  
7-9 PM



**"The House in the Woods that  
caters to you!"**

The holidays are over and it is now time to settle down to our long Wisconsin winter.

At a time when hobbies are considered luxuries I find myself thinking about justification for my knitting. For me-it's my job, but also a big part of the fabric of my life. It's part of my wardrobe. Every knitted hat, sweater, scarf in my closet is one less that I'm not tempted to purchase at the Mall. We've become obsessed with the process of knitting and the "therapeutic" aspects of the craft-but remember, it's essentially a productive art. Knitting gives us functional end products.

Part of my knitting journey over the past months has been realizing that though I love knitting intricate patterns; when I reach for a sweater to wear, I always go for the plain but well-shaped vest or sweater that fits my personal style.

Knitting for knitting's sake is one of the magical aspects of the craft and is a valid reason to start a new project. I thought about this a lot as I was planning this issue. I asked myself: What is fun to make and wearable in real life? What is good use of yarn? What do people want/need in their closets.

I have also put a great deal of thought into what yarn, patterns, notions, might be helpful and a nice addition to our shop. I think I currently have a good "mix" of yarn types and price points; and although I want to keep offering "new" items I don't want to just bring things in to "bring things in". With the economy; we are all watching our budget. The advantage to knitting is that we make a "one of a kind" garment for a fraction of the cost of ready-made irregardless of the initial cost of our materials. There are always more products available than I would ever have room to accommodate. If there is ever a product or yarn that you see that you would like to have available in the shop, please feel free to tell me about it. I also have the ability to sometimes get yarn or products for you that I do not normally carry so be sure to ask about that also.

The last page of this newsletter is our annual Knit Along-Enjoy!!

I'm still trying to add to my list of emails. If you haven't already please send yours' to me so that I might continue to keep my prices reasonable by keeping my costs down. I appreciate you!!

Gone Knitting!  
Sandy





**Books:** I'm constantly adding new books as they are released and as I see one that I think would be especially good addition to your library. Some of my recent additions are:

**Fiber Mania:** A travel guide for those who do things with yarn. New Compact Size. (Yes, I am listed.) **Beyond Wool by Candace Strick;** Shows off the unique qualities of natural yarns; tips, techniques, and patterns. Ten fun to knit. **Winter Glamour:** A Sirdar booklet with designs for women and girls. I've reordered this one twice already. **Toe-Up Technique by Janet Rehfeldt;** Slip this small book into your knitting bag—it's perfect to take along. **"It Itches";** 75 cartoons and 10 essays about the knitting life from the funniest man in knitting. **Unravel Me by Christine Ridgway;** Is a novel. Pure romance. Delightfully warm and funny. **Simply Shetland 5**—another great Shetland book of knitting patterns. This one has a garden theme. **Eclectic Sole by Janet Laidman;** socks to knit for every type of knitter. **Mason-Dixon Knitting Outside the Lines:** The more you knit the more you learn!! **Knit One Below by Elise Dubekot;** Introduces a new and exciting way for knitters to combine colors, weights, fibers, into versatile fabrics.

## Notions, Patterns, Yarns:

\* **HiyaHiya needles** have been doing really well, everyone who has tried them has liked them so I have been adding more sizes in both the metal and bamboo. \* **Rauma (my Norwegian yarn)** has a number of new mitten and headband kits available in the shop along with some new patterns. \*I've found some very nice **leather/wooden purse** handles that a company in Milwaukee makes. They'll be available starting the first of January. \* **Penny Straker Patterns:** will now be available at the shop. Her patterns are easy to read and include lots of knitting helps. \*check out the **notion rack** for all the new notions I've discovered including the "license to Knit" license plates. \***Opal sock yarn;** I have 12 new colors in stock that I know you will enjoy using. Such great colors!! \***Inca Alpaca worsted;** I have new colors of that soft yarn coming along with a couple of new colors of **Alpaca Sox**. \***Noro** I've ordered more colors of Silk Garden, and Kureyon—let's keep our fingers crossed that they come in. **Rainshadow Alpaca** is 98% Baby alpaca yarn. It is spun as a spiral boucle so it has some texture. It is incredible soft and Eco friendly, chunky weight. **Moreland** is the other "new" yarn I decided to add to our collection. It is a lovely, soft, muted tweed yarn. I know once you see it you'll "have" to find something to knit with it. Lots more colors of the **Super wash 220 by Cascade**.

## Now to remind you not to neglect my new "Lending Library."

All of the Lucy Neatby DVD's are available in the library. Two of Meg Swanson's classic sweater videos,. The whole first season of "Knitting Daily" TV show. The "Art of Fair Isle" on CD. Plus others. As time goes on, and if this is something it appears you enjoy and make use of, I will add other items to the library. I am counting on each of you to take care of these items as if they were your own. Return them on time, so others may have access to them. ENJOY! **It is a way for all of us to grow in our craft without spending a great deal of money.**



**A Scarf pattern that is easy, would look great in any of our yarns, will knit quickly, and still be fun: A little lace and little bobble. A lot of nice knitting.**

Gauge is not super important!

Worsted weight yarn and size 10 needles.

Cast on 23 stitches.

Purl the next row.

Row 1: k3, \*MB, k3 repeat from \* to end.

Row : 2,4,6,8,10,12, 14 Purl

Row : 3,5,7,9,11 K1, \*yo, k2tog repeat from \* to end of row.

Repeat rows 1-14 a total of 17 times, end scarf by repeating rows 1 and 2.

Bind off in knit on next right side.

About 65 inches long.

MB: Make Bobble: In next st, (k1,p1,k1) in same  
Stitch to create 3 stitches in one. Turn work  
And purl 3  
Turn work and knit 3 together.



## February Cont.

**3. Inside-Outside Scarf:** Pick two balls of yarn and we'll try the new technique of Knitting into the stitch below. You'll have an exciting, reversible scarf.

**Sun. February 15**

**1-3 pm**

**4. Owl Sweater:** Penny Starker has a very nice pattern for young people that involves knitting an "owl" right into the design of your sweater. I thought we would do this as a nice introduction to her patterns.

**Sat. February 21 and March 7**

**1-3 pm**

## March

**1. Last Minute Help on Knit Along:** Bring your problems and I'll help you get through it, and get them ready turn in.

**Sun. March 8**

**1-3 pm**

**2. Knit One Below:** We tried the scarf, now let's really work with the technique and make a sweater or vest for Spring. Look through Elise Duvekot's book for inspiration.

**Sat. March 21 and 28**

**1-3 pm**

## Important Dates:



**Our Knit Along Party: March 22: 2-4 pm**

**Closed for Market: March 13-15**

**You'll never know what you can do until you TRY!**

*Happy Knitting!*

*sandy*

